



# THE OBSERVER

For the members of Castle Colchester MCC – **Secret Santas.**

Christmas 2016/January 2017 Edition

Well, we've come to the end of another year of motorcycle sport and we can have a look back at how the Castle riders got on in the Centre Champs. There hasn't been much action this month so the Trials Round Up is very 'light' and the Enduro Round Up non-existent. Happy Christmas to everyone and wishing you a Happy New Year, too.

## 2016 Championship Round Up

The end of the year is a good time to look back and see how the Castle riders got on in the Centre Championships. Another good reason is a lack of other, possibly more interesting, stuff to write about. Let's start with the various trials championships.

Not many of our riders had a full tilt at any one of the championships which is probably indicative of the demands of life outside of motorcycling I guess. The exception to this, of course, was Paul Whitehead.

In the Expert class, Tom managed to take 5<sup>th</sup> place despite riding only 3 out of the 7 available rounds. Chris Ryland rode 'just the one' round.

Paul Whitehead's dedication to duty paid off handsomely and he duly took the Expert B Championship win. The crucial ride was 1<sup>st</sup> in class in the final round, at Beazley End, giving Paul the decisive 3-point advantage over Mark Banham.

Tom figured in this Class, as well as Expert, due to 'riding down' on occasions because of a lack of regular riding – it's tough to do 'the yellow' when you're not at the top of your game. He scored well at 3 rounds and placed 5<sup>th</sup> overall.

Richard took in 4 rounds and, for my money didn't really get the rub-of-the-green, taking 8<sup>th</sup>.

As for the Inters our 'regular' riders Neil and Buck attended 4 rounds and 3 rounds respectively. Despite this relatively low number Neil took 6<sup>th</sup> and Buck 8<sup>th</sup> which isn't a bad return at all.

It's a similar story with the Inter B's. We had 5 riders in the class and the most rounds anyone did was Alan Day with 3. Alan took 8<sup>th</sup> in class, with Chris Eley just behind in 9<sup>th</sup>. Chammers did a couple and both Jason and Gary managed a single outing over the course of the year.

Unfortunately, we came up with a big, fat zero in the Novice Class. It's a shame we have no novice riders.

Now we move on to the oldies – bikes that is, not necessarily the riders.

On the Twin Shock Hard Route Richard got the better of Tom by taking the Beam-engine to a championship 'podium' position of 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Tom was a couple of places back in 5<sup>th</sup>.

Terry Thompson made a single appearance on the Easy route.

Our sole representative in the Pre-70's was Jim riding the James and clocking up some points at round 4.

It's a similar story with the enduro guys in that no-one got to all the rounds in any class. Paul Whitehead did best by finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Expert Over 40 category. Jason wasn't far behind in 5<sup>th</sup>. George managed a few of rounds and came home 8<sup>th</sup> Clubman – not helped by breaking a collar bone along the way. Rob Blackman did one round in the Experts but was concentrating on other things, including a couple of beach races, so didn't figure prominently in the Championship overall.

## Trials Round Up

### Lowestoft Invaders – Corton – 4<sup>th</sup> December

Only one Castle rider in this particular event...

**Red/Blue:** Chammers was our lone representative and he rode into 15<sup>th</sup> position with a score of 23.

### Braintree – Beazley End (Turkey Trot) – 18<sup>th</sup> December

The annual Turkey Trot trial – no Castle turkey winners, unfortunately.

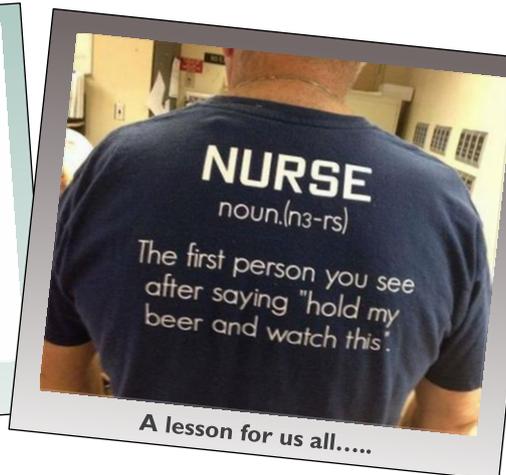
**Expert:** Tom was 6<sup>th</sup> on 45 marks.

**Expert B:** Paul Whitehead rode into 3<sup>rd</sup> place, losing 9, and Richard was a couple of places back on 11.

**Inter:** Chammers was 10<sup>th</sup> with a 38 point score. Buck came in 12<sup>th</sup> on 46.

**Inter B:** In a low-scoring class Jason dropped 2 marks and finished 4<sup>th</sup>. Alan was 3 places and 3 marks further back.

## Nothing To Do With Anything Much



## Club Night – Doesn't really exist anymore....

### Club Night Diary:

Due to a general lack of interest Club Nights will now be on an ad hoc basis.

Could be anytime, anyplace, anywhere. Or not at all.

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